



Constitution Day Ceremony

Presented by the

Edenton Tea Party Chapter

North Carolina Society

NSDAR

Historic Chowan County Courthouse

September 17, 2025

Sponsored by the Edenton Tea Party Chapter, DAR

And

State Historic Sites Edenton



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign states; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all Enemies.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last
gleaming.

Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched, were
so gallantly streaming. And the rocket's red glare, the bomb's bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the
United States of America.

Program

Welcome	Bonnie T. Henn, Regent
Presentation of the Colors	John A. Holmes JRTOC Lt. Col Neil Parks
Invocation	Clara Patton King, Chaplain
Pledge of Allegiance to The Flag of the United States of America	Robin Mayer, Constitution Day Chair
National Anthem	Rae Ohlert, American Heritage Chair
American's Creed	Caroline Butler, Historic Preservation Chair
Preamble	Chris Grimes, Chaplain General, National Society Sons of the American Revolution
Proclamation	Honorable Hackney High, Mayor
Presentation of American 250! Award Mayor Hackney High	Bonnie Henn
"America The Beautiful" <i>Lyrics by Katherine Lee Bates</i>	Albemarle Chorale Ensemble Lynwood Winslow III, Director
"A Constitutional Conversation"	Alex Kehayes as Willie Jones Larry McLaughlin as James Iredell Russ Corker as the "Town Crier"
Keynote Address "How a Garden Saved the Constitution"	Rev. Jonathan Tobias
"My Country 'Tis of Thee" <i>Lyrics by Samuel Francis Smith</i>	Albemarle Chorale Ensemble
Closing Remarks	Bonnie Henn
Benediction	Chris Grimes
Retiring of the Colors	John A. Holmes Color Guard
Ringling of the Courthouse Bell by the JROTC Color Guard	

The History of the Hugh Williamson Memorial, signer of the Constitution and the Edenton Tea Party Chapter

It was 26 years ago that Virginia Wood, member of the Edenton Tea Party, had a dream...a dream to honor Hugh Williamson, signer of the Constitution and Edenton resident. After the first successful July 4th celebration honoring Joseph Hewes and the reading of the Declaration of Independence, Virginia and Beth Taylor collaborated and began brainstorming about the monument, its location, type of monument and how to procure the funding.



Both ladies presented the idea to the Edenton Tea Party Chapter and it was approved that Virginia Wood & Beth Taylor would attend the Chowan County Commissioners meeting, present the project and ask that a Hugh Williamson Monument be erected.

On January 16, 2002 the Chowan County Commissioners appointed a commission and Judge Terry Boyle would serve as chairman. In 2003 the drawing was approved—an elliptical wall bordering the present Hewes monument. In August 2005 funding was received from the N.C. General Assembly. The project got bogged down and because of the recession we lost our funding back to the NC General Assembly in June 2009.

In 2015 the project got back on track. Mayor Roland Vaughan and Bob Hopkins, Site Director for the State Historic Sites Edenton came up with the idea that the monument would be placed in the Elizabeth Vann Moore Park. The town would have ownership of the monument. WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA!!!!

Frank Parker drew a design, got a cost figure and a site plan was drawn. The application was hand delivered to Rep. Bob Steinburg March 14, 2016. On July 4th 2016, it was announced that funding had been approved by the North Carolina General Assembly at the annual reading of the green where the Honorable Judge Terrance Boyle was in attendance. The town received the news with enthusiasm and a sense of accomplishment!

The monument was installed April 2017 and on Constitution Day 2017 the monument was dedicated. It took 70 years to accomplish this feat and 18 years for Virginia Wood's vision to become a reality. Two words best describe this project PATIENCE and PERSEVERANCE. Hugh Williamson will be at each ceremony in spirit, as will Virginia Wood, whose vision made the monument a reality.

Top:

Artist rendition of Williamson Memorial

Bottom: Virginia Wood, Beth Taylor and Julia Elmore at first Constitution Day Commemoration September 17, 2017



History compiled by: Beth Taylor, Honorary Chapter Regent, Edenton Tea Party Chapter, NSDAR